(e) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to help these medical colleges in solving their problems and for safeguarding the future of students studying in these colleges; and

(f) what is the extent of the Central help given to each of the colleges referred to above during each of the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) According to the Medical Council of India (MCI) the Medical College, Nanded has been directed to stop admissions with immediate effect due to acute shortage of staff in the college.

(c) and (d) shortage of teaching staff in the Medical Colleges at Miraj and Ambajogai has been reported by the Medical Council of India. The deficiencies have been pointed out to the College authorities and a report on rectifying the deficienies is awaited. The Council has not received any requests from the Govt. Medical Colleges at Dhule and Yeotmal for undertaking the inspection of the colleges in the prescribed manner.

(e) and (f) The State Government of Maharashtra have reported to the Council that they are taking necessary steps to remove the deficiencies in order to fulfil the MCI standards.

There is no scheme for rendering Central assistance to State Medical Colleges.

Presence of Lead in the Blood of Inhabitants of Bombay

1101. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 50 per cent of the Bombay city population have been found to have 20 mg. of lead per 100 cc of blood according to BARC experts, report as published in the Observer of April 13, 1993;

(b) if so, what are the adverse effects of the rise in lead poisoning on the health of the people; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to safeguard the health and lives of people ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) The news report appears to be erroneous. The BARC experts study indicates the blood lead levels to be of the average value of 17.7 micrograms per 100 ml. of blood.

(b) The Indian Council of Medical Research have indicated that the symptoms of lead poisoning depend on whether the exposure is through food, water or air but broadly they result in nerve weakness, vomitting, anaemia, abdominal pain among other symptoms.

(c) Steps are being taken to *inter-alia* control adulteration of food, the location of noxious industries, the use of toxic substances, reduce lead levels in petrol, besides creating public awareness about preventive health.

Transfer of Stocks Incharge of Indian Systems of Medicines under CGHS

1102. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a policy of the Department to transfer the officials